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Summary record of the 24th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 2 March 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 132: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/64/7/Add.21 and A/64/349/Add.6)

1. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller) said that the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 (A/64/349/Add.6) presented proposed additional resource requirements, amounting to $1,044,000 net, for three special political missions: the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and the Monitoring Group on Somalia.

2. He recalled that the Security Council, in its resolution 1905 (2009), had extended the mandate of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq until 31 December 2010. The associated resource requirements, which would cover the cost of official travel of the Secretary-General's representative on the Board to four meetings of that body and the hosting of one meeting in New York, amounted to $82,200.

3. The Office of the Ombudsperson to assist the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities when considering delisting requests, which would be established for an initial period of 18 months in accordance with the decision of the Security Council in paragraph 20 of its resolution 1904 (2009), was intended to be supported by the existing resources of the Department of Political Affairs. Accordingly, additional requirements for 2010 would be limited to the Ombudsperson's fees and related expenses, estimated at $192,800.

4. By its resolution 1907 (2009), the Security Council had extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia to encompass new measures against Eritrea. In paragraph 19 of that resolution, the Council had requested the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for additional resources and personnel. The estimated additional requirements for 2010, amounting to $769,000, would cover costs including the fees and travel expenses of three additional experts for nine months, and one additional local-level position to provide research and administrative support to the Monitoring Group.

5. The General Assembly was invited to approve the additional requirements for 2010 of $1,044,000 net, and to approve a charge of the same amount against the balance of the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

6. **Mr. Siqueira** (Department of Political Affairs) said that he wished to clarify on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs the details provided in paragraph 16 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Department of Political Affairs had initially concluded that the Monitoring Group on Somalia should be relocated temporarily for security reasons. However, the security situation was kept under constant review, and the Department of Political Affairs currently planned for the Monitoring Group to continue to operate from Nairobi during 2010.

7. Should security conditions so require, the members of the Monitoring Group might have to be based for a period of time in New York or at their own homes. The Department of Safety and Security would continue to monitor the situation closely and provide the Department of Political Affairs with up-to-date advice. The Department of Political Affairs took the view that it must balance the need to fulfil the sensitive and complex mandate of the Monitoring Group with the need to ensure adequate security and protection for the staff and consultants involved.

8. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, in its report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 (A/64/7/Add.21), had made comments and recommendations regarding the three special political missions concerned. It invited the General Assembly to

approve the associated additional requirements, amounting to $1,044,000 net, and to approve a charge of the same amount against the balance of the provision for special political missions approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/245 for the biennium 2010-2011. However, the clarification provided by the Department of Political Affairs regarding the prospective relocation of the Monitoring Group on Somalia, which held cost implications, would require the Advisory Committee to amend the recommendations contained in its report.

9. **Mr. Sugiyama** (Japan) said that his delegation had noted the increasing share of the programme budget devoted to special political missions and had therefore repeatedly encouraged the Secretary-General to propose for those missions budgets that were no larger than strictly necessary to comply with the mandates conferred on them by the Security Council. The revised estimates should meet the same criteria.

10. Noting that the monitoring of sanctions relating to Eritrea was being entrusted to the existing Monitoring Group on Somalia rather than to a new group, he welcomed the awareness of the need for budgetary discipline demonstrated by the Security Council and the Secretary-General. He also noted the intention to support the Office of the Ombudsperson assisting the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) from within the existing resources of the Department of Political Affairs. Should the use of the same mechanism to assist with delisting requests be proposed in connection with other sanctions regimes, the Office of the Ombudsperson established under Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) should have the mandate to provide such assistance, in order to avoid institutional overlap.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.